

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /052 W

----- 004723

R 301758Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, WB, FR, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BERLIN CHARTERS

REF: STATE 178195

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN CHARTER QUESTION DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH SUGGEST WE FOLLOW UP WITH MORE FORMAL DEMARCHE. AIR FRANCE CLAIMS BERLIN LOAD FACTOR ONLY 33 PERCENT. AMEMBASSY BONN MAY WISH SEEK ELICIT MORE FORECEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FROM FRENCH EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. WE DISCUSSED BERLIN CHARTERS INFORMALLY JULY 29 WITH CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE, WHO HANDLES CIVAIR MATTERS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. WHEN HER MEMORY WAS JOGGED SHE RECALLED THAT THIS QUESTION HAD COME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ATTENTION BUT SHE SAID IT HAD "GONE UNNOTICED". SHE RETRIEVED FROM FILES TRAFFIC RECEIVED THIS SUBJECT FROM FRENCH EMBASSY BONN; ONLY SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT WAS EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION TWO PANAM CHARTERS LATE MAY BE APPROVED, WHICH WAS DONE. SHE SAID SGAC HAD INFORMED BUT NOT FORMALLY CONSULTED

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FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ASSUMED

THIS WAS ANOTHER ROUTINE CHARTER MATTER OF KIND NORMALLY LEFT TO SGAC'S JURISDICTION. SHE SAID THAT SGAC DISAPPROVAL PANAM'S BERLIN-PARIS CHARTERS TO PROTECT AIR FRANCE SCHEDULED SERVICE ON THAT ROUTE WAS MOTIVATED BY FACT AIR FRANCE SCHEDULED TRAFFIC HAD DECLINED CONSIDERABLY AS SOON AS PANAM HAD BEGUN OPERATE ITS CHARTERS.

3. WE INFORMED CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE THAT BECAUSE OF BERLIN IMPLICATIONS PROBLEM WAS NOT ROUTINE BUT TOUCHED ON TRIPARTITE OBLIGATIONS AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO ALLIED SUPPORT OF BERLIN AND ITS POPULATION. WE WERE ANXIOUS ASCERTAIN THAT CIVAIR AND POLITICAL BRANCHES OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE INDEED ALERTED TO PROBLEM WHOSE RAMIFICATIONS THEY WERE PERHAPS IN BETTER POSITION APPRECIATE THAN WAS SGAC. WE NOTED THAT QUESTION HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS IN BONN AND THAT WAS CERTAINLY THE PROPER FORUM. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING SGAC'S RECENT ACTION (PARIS 19165) IN CONFIRMING DISAPPROVAL OF PANAM'S FALL PROGRAM WE WERE INSTRUCTED EXPLORE INFORMALLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY WHAT MIGHT NOW BE DONE.

4. WE ALSO INDICATED WE HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS RE BASIS FOR SGAC ACTION. WE UNDERSTOOD LAKER RATHER THAN PANAM HAD POSED PROBLEM; WHILE LAKER ASPECT MIGHT COMPOUND GOF DIFFICULTIES IN RESOLVING THE QUESTION OUR CONCERN OF COURSE WAS SOLELY WITH PANAM. PANAM FALL PROGRAM WAS FOR TWICE WEEKLY ITC'S DURING PERIOD SEPT.-NOV. USING 727 TRANSPORTING 125 PASSENGERS. THIS CERTAINLY EXCEEDED CAPACITY AIR FRANCE COULD ABSORB ON ITS TWICE DAILY AND ONCE SUNDAY SCHEDULED SERVICE USING CARAVELLES. AS A RESULT, BULK OF BERLIN CHARTER TRAFFIC CLEARLY COULD NOT MOVE OR WOULD HAVE TO GO TO OTHER DESTINATIONS IF CHARTERS TO PARIS WERE NOT AUTHORIZED. SINCE BERLIN CHARTER TRAFFIC WAS UNIDIRECTIONAL (I.E., VOLUME WAS BERLIN GENERATED AND NOT PARIS GENERATED) WE ALSO SAW PARALLEL WITH SGAC'S WEEKEND ITC RULE, WHICH WAS RESPONSIVE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PECULIARITY OF FRENCH AND NOT US TRAVEL MARKET AND FOR WHICH CAB WAS DISPOSED TO LOOK FAVORABLY ON WAIVER REQUESTS.

5. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF WE WERE TO SUBMIT DIPLOMATIC NOTE OR AIDE MEMOIRE URGING GOF TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION, THOUGH SHE COULD NOT PREJUDGE WHAT OUTCOME OF SUCH POLICY REVIEW

MIGHT BE. WE TOLD HER THAT OUR PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS
LIMITED US TO INFORMAL REVIEW OF SITUATION WITH
FOREIGN MINISTRY; WE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER DEPT.

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WOULD WISH PURSUE DISCUSSION IN PARIS OR IN
TRIPARTITE FORUM IN BONN AND WE WOULD THEREFORE
HAVE TO SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

6. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH AIR FRANCE OFFICIAL
WE WERE TOLD THAT LOAD FACTOR ON BERLIN ROUTE WAS
CURRENTLY ONLY 33 PERCENT, LOWEST OF ANY OF AIR FRANCE
ROUTES TO GERMAN POINTS (HAMBURG IS HIGHEST WITH 60
PERCENT LOAD FACTOR).

7. DEPT. REQUESTED ADVISE WHETHER IT IS DESIRABLE
THAT WE FOLLOW UP WITH NOTE OR AIDE MEMOIRE TO
FOREIGN MINISTRY. IF AFFIRMATIVE, DEPT. IS REQUESTED
PROVIDE TEXT IN VIEW SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF BERLIN
SITUATION. IN SUPPORT OF ANY SUCH DEMARCHE, OR IN ITS
ABSENCE, AMEMBASSY BONN--WITHOUT REFERENCE OUR TALK

WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY--MAY WISH CONSIDER IN LIGHT
PARA 2 ABOVE WHETHER FRENCH EMBASSY BONN COULD BE
PREVAILED ON TO TAKE MORE FORCEFUL POSITION WITH ITS
FOREIGN MINISTRY THAN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE CASE THUS
FAR IN ARGUING FOR CONTINUED FREE ACCESS TO BERLIN
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CHARTER MARKET BY ALLIED CARRIERS. AMEMBASSY BONN
COMMENT WOULD BE WELCOMED.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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